



## IMPORTANT LEADERS

Before long, some key women became leaders of the movement. Besides Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Lucy Stone, another important player emerged. Her name was Susan B. Anthony.

Anthony, who chose never to marry, worked tirelessly for women's rights. She was brought up a Quaker and experienced more freedom than many young women. But it wasn't long before she saw the inequality between men and women. As a teacher, she was paid only one fifth of what male teachers were paid. When Anthony complained about it, she lost her job.

In the early 1850s, Anthony met women who were active in the women's rights movement. She formed a deep and lasting friendship with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Stanton described Anthony as having "a broad and generous nature, and a depth of tenderness that few women possess." Together, Stanton and Anthony were determined to improve the lives of American women. In the years that followed, they lectured on the importance of the ballot and helped to start state and local women's groups.

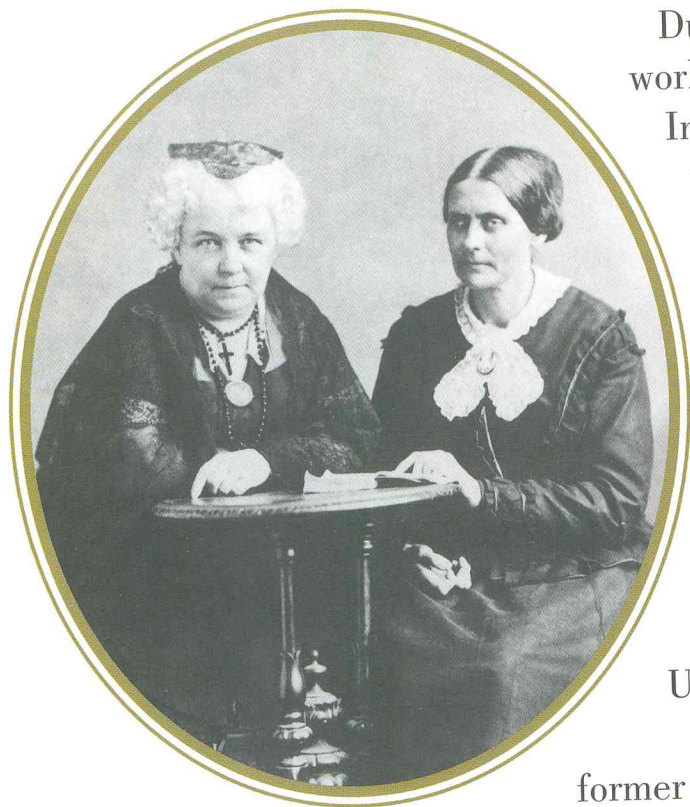


Susan B. Anthony was born into a Quaker family and was well-educated. She was not used to having her opinions ignored.





During the Civil War (1861–1865), their work took a backseat to the crisis at hand. Instead, much of the women's energy went toward supporting the effort to free the slaves. In 1863, Anthony and Stanton led women in collecting hundreds of thousands of signatures for a **petition**. The petition asked for a constitutional **amendment** to end slavery. In December 1865, their hard work paid off. The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, abolishing slavery in the United States.



This photograph of Elizabeth Cady Stanton (left) and Susan B. Anthony was taken thirty years after they met.

After the war, there was talk of giving former slaves the right to vote. Women's rights groups supported this idea. However, they wanted the same for women. In 1866, Stanton and Anthony formed the American Equal Rights Association. Its goal was to

win the vote for both former slaves and women.

Yet before long, many of the organization's members began to feel that they'd made a mistake. They thought that insisting on voting rights for

### THE PERFECT PAIR

The bond between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony lasted more than fifty years. Stanton described their relationship in her autobiography, *Eighty Years and More*:

*In thought and sympathy we are one, and in the division of labor we exactly complemented each other. I am the better writer, she the better critic . . . together we have made arguments that have stood unshaken through the storms of long years; arguments that no one has answered.*



★★★★



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**This document ordered the release of all slaves in the state of Missouri in 1865. Three weeks later, the Thirteenth Amendment was proposed by Congress.**





Proud members of the National Woman Suffrage Association

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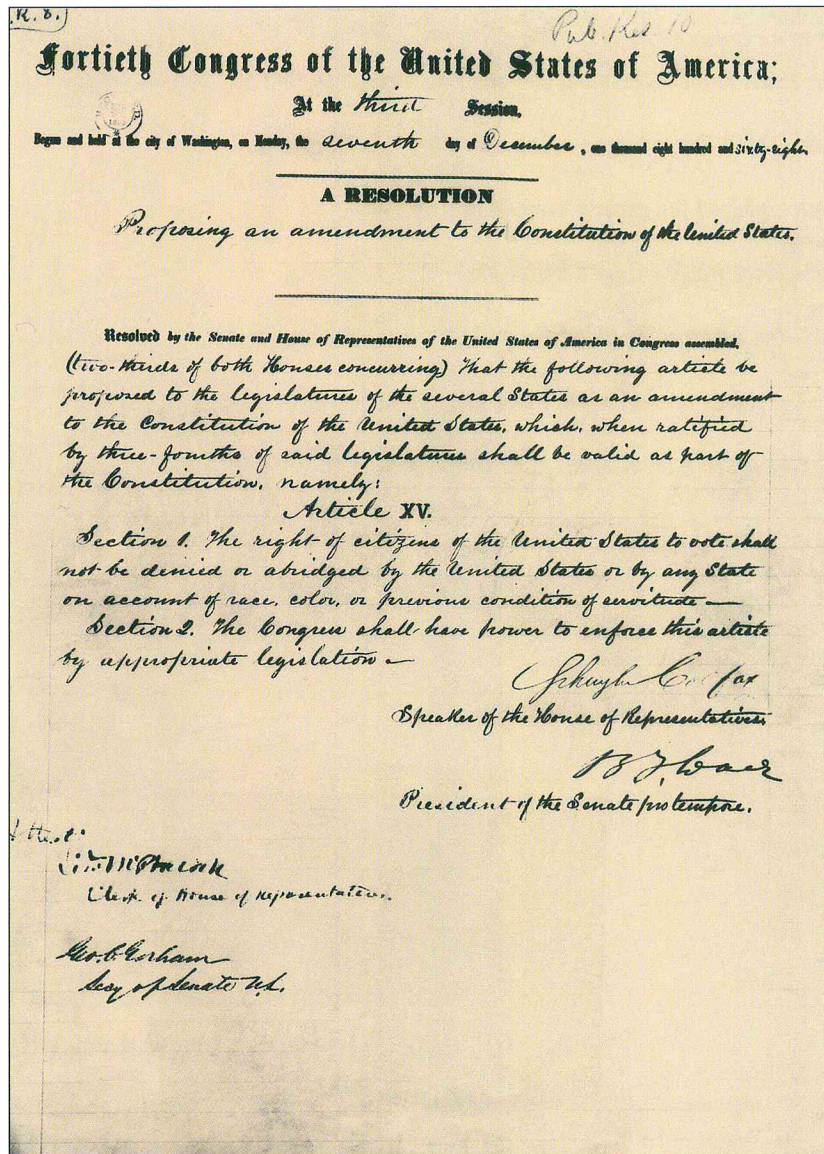
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## THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT SPLITS

This difference in view caused a split in the women's movement. In 1869, Stanton and Anthony started a new group called the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). This group was against the proposed Fifteenth Amendment, which would grant voting rights to African American males but made no mention of women.

NWSA wanted another amendment passed instead. This amendment would ensure universal suffrage, or the right to vote for everyone. The association's other goals included creating fairer divorce laws and organizing female workers into unions in order to get higher salaries. The suffragists were well-aware of the connection between money and freedom. As Stanton put it, "Woman will always be dependent until she holds a purse of her own."



The Fifteenth Amendment guaranteed all citizens—except women—the right to vote, regardless of race.



## REVOLUTION

In 1868, Anthony, Stanton, and other suffragists started a newspaper. This newspaper was called the *Revolution*. Stanton explained the paper's name in this way:

*There would not be a better name than Revolution.*

*The establishing of woman on her rightful throne is the greatest revolution the world has ever known or ever will know. To bring it about is no child's play.*



Lucy Stone disagreed with Stanton and Anthony's goals. That same year Lucy Stone started a less radical group called the American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA). Stone's organization would "not attack the [proposed] Fifteenth Amendment or complicate the question of woman suffrage with side issues."

Meanwhile, in 1870 the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted. Stanton, Anthony, and their fol-

lowers were disappointed, but the women refused to give up. The road ahead wasn't easy. At nearly every turn, they had to fight deeply held **prejudices** against women.

Many people were opposed to women's suffrage. They argued that the country would fall apart if women won the right to vote. They claimed that women were less intelligent than men and would not be able to make sound decisions at the ballot box. They even said that voting rights for women would destroy the American family. Women who were interested in politics would surely neglect their children and households.

Progress came slowly, but the women did enjoy some victories along the way. In 1869, the U.S. territory of Wyoming granted women the right to vote. In 1871, Stanton and Anthony traveled to Wyoming to visit this "land of freedom." Yet they knew that Wyoming's action was just a small step in the right direction. They were determined to see women voting across the nation.



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